

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 658

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch upon being named in *Modern Healthcare's* "Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009."

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those healthcare professionals who dedicate themselves to improving the quality of healthcare and providing the best possible service to citizens of this State and our nation; and

WHEREAS, one such hardworking and exceedingly talented woman is Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., C.N.M., who stands as Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and who was recently named to *Modern Healthcare's* list of the "Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Conway-Welch was recognized for her astute leadership in the areas of nursing education, emergency preparedness, HIV/AIDS awareness, global health, and the education of healthcare professionals in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs Harry Jacobson, M.D., praised Colleen Conway-Welch, saying, "Colleen is very deserving of this national honor. She has her own, internal ignition switch. She embraces change and takes risks, and in doing so, is a remarkable leader in the ever-evolving world of health care"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Conway-Welch has served as Professor and Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing since 1984; in the fall of 2009, she will celebrate her twenty-fifth year as Dean, marking her as one of the longest sitting deans of a school of nursing in the country; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Georgetown University, Catholic University of America, and New York University, she holds three honorary doctorates and is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Colleen Conway-Welch served on President Reagan's Commission on the HIV Epidemic, and in 1998 was appointed to the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare by Speaker Gingrich; and

WHEREAS, a woman of superior ability and knowledge, Dr. Conway-Welch was appointed by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Thompson to the Secretary's Council on Public Health Preparedness in 2002; in 2003, she was named to the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) of DHHS; and

WHEREAS, adding to her already illustrious resume, she was named as a member of the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute in 2004; just two years later, President Bush named Dr. Conway-Welch as a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of Health Services, an appointment that was confirmed by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Conway-Welch is recognized for turning the world of education inside out by redesigning an innovative nursing curriculum which launched the first "bridge program" and created a foundation for supporting masters-level education in nursing; today, this same approach is being put into practice at hundreds of schools of nursing across the country; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Dr. Conway-Welch ushered in the Vanderbilt School of Nursing's Ph.D. program; most recently, she launched the school's first Doctor of Nursing Practice program, designed to transform the nation's primary care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, a national figure who has served on top-level health committees dealing with national health and social issues, Colleen Conway-Welch has held many prestigious positions both in and beyond the healthcare industry; and

WHEREAS, from 1994 until 1998, Dr. Conway-Welch chaired the "Report Card" Committee on Nashville Schools for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; from 1996 until 2007, she stood as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Symphony; in 1999, she

chaired the United Way Annual Giving Campaign for Middle Tennessee; in 2007, she was appointed by Secretary Leavitt of DHHS to the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health; in 2008, she co-chaired the “Power of the Purse” of the Women’s Fund of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee; and she is a long-standing member of the Advisory Board of Alive Hospice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Conway-Welch is also the former President and one of the founders of Friends of the National Institutes of Health for the National Institute for Nursing Research; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her recent honor as one of *Modern Healthcare’s* “Top 25 Women in Healthcare,” she has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and as a Charter Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives; in 2004, she was selected as the Nashvillian of the Year by the *Nashville Scene* and received the *Nashville Business Journal’s* Health Care 100 Award; and in 2008, she was awarded the national Outstanding Leadership in Nursing Education Award from the National League for Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Colleen Conway-Welch is a woman of incredible intellect who has given of her many abilities to advance the healthcare industry and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of her community, her state, and this nation, and she is most deserving of this great honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch upon being named in *Modern Healthcare’s* “Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009,” thank her for her unwavering dedication to excellence in all she does, and extend to her our best wishes for every success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.